

CAL CUP II: THEN & NOW

Don B's Princess

by DEBRA GINSBURG

There's a 3-year-old Cal-bred running these days with the name of Upsanddowns. Bred by Jerry and Barbara Dutton, the colt is by Kentucky stallion Peaks and Valleys and out of California champion Don B's Princess. The name is quite fitting, for no other Thoroughbred has given the Duttons such highs and lows than this little gray miss that captured the California Cup Juvenile Fillies in 1991.

Back in 1983, Jerry Dutton had a 2-year-old filly in his Northern California barn that flashed a lot of promise. Her name was True Windy's Baby and, in just the third start of her young career, she had captured the Solano County Juvenile Filly Stakes.

The filly also placed in the Juan Gonzalez Memorial Stakes and Mid-Peninsula Stakes up north and a division of the Bustles and Bows Stakes at the Los Angeles County Fair in Pomona. She failed to train on, however, and never won another race past her freshman year. She wound up competing in lower-priced claiming races.

Dutton always wanted to find another good filly from this family, and he found one at the CTS Northern California Yearling and Mixed Sale in 1990. She was True Windy's Baby's half-sister, a striking looking gray, by Prince Don B. out of Brave Indeed We, from the Blooming Hills consignment. Only a month earlier, the mare was repre-

California Cup Juvenile Fillies 1991

presented by an Empire Glory filly, Simple Surprise, that had broken her maiden at Los Alamitos for a \$32,000 tag. Dutton bought the Prince Don B. filly for \$12,000.

Ron and Fran Stolich got Brave Indeed We as payment for a board bill in 1988 and raised her Empire Glory filly. They consigned the baby to the 1989 Del Mar Yearling Sale,

where she fetched a bargain-basement price of \$4,500 from Los Angeles resident Rick Evans. The mare was bred next to Prince Don B., the popular Northern California stakes winner of \$409,055. He had been experiencing fertility problems, but got Brave Indeed We in foal. The filly that resulted from that mating not only inherited her sire's coat color, but topped all yearling fillies at the Northern California sale that year.

New Year 1991 was very good to these daughters of Brave Indeed We. In January,

Simple Surprise ran second in a Santa Anita allowance race and came right back to upset a good field of Cal-bred fillies in the California Breeders' Champion Stakes at odds of 20-1. In the beaten field were future stakes winners *Apresiasi*, *Spirited Susan* and *Teresa Mc*. The Prince Don B. filly made her debut in a six-furlong maiden race at Del Mar eight months later. Carrying the name Don B's Princess and



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DON B'S PRINCESS Continued

the silks of Barbara Dutton and Southern California auto dealer Harold Greene, she made short work of the field and coasted home by 5 1/2 lengths.

Don B's Princess jumped right into stakes company for her next start, the six furlong California Thoroughbred Breeders Association Stakes at Del Mar on Sept. 9. She finished a fast-closing third to Wine 'n Music and Shanestar. She then picked up a fourth and a third in two allowance races at Santa Anita in October and was entered in California Cup II.

"We had California Cup as a major objective for Don B's Princess all season," Jerry explained. "She was training well, and the 1 1/16 mile juvenile filly race fit her program perfectly. There aren't many \$100,000 races at that distance carded exclusively for 2-year-old fillies."

Don B's Princess looked the picture of health and fitness as she pranced in the paddock. Going post-ward under Pat Valenzuela, she was overlooked at 11-1 odds in the field of 11. Favored was Wicked Wit, a Pirate's Bounty filly who had captured the Generous Portion Stakes against Calbreds at Del Mar, and had also placed in the graded Junior Miss and Del Mar Debutante at the seaside track. Second choice, at 3-1, was Northern California stakes winner Charm a Gendarme, whose full brother Charmonnier had just upset Best Pal in the Cal Cup Classic a half-hour earlier.

Don B's Princess broke from the five post and settled right into contention. As Charm a Gendarme and L'Tov battled for the early lead, the eventual winner was tucked into fourth place and well within striking distance. Valenzuela had his filly in high gear by the time they reached the far turn. She swept into second as they straightened for the homestretch.

At this point, it appeared that Charm a Gendarme was on her way to giving Robert and Barbara Walter the late daily double. Don B's Princess, running wide, began to overtake her with every long stride. The gray filly had a length advantage over Charm a Gendarme as they swept under the wire. The win was the fourth of the afternoon for Valenzuela and sweetened the aftertaste of his bitter defeat

aboard Best Pal. For Dutton, who the previous year had captured the inaugural Distaff with Linda Card, it was Cal Cup victory number two.

Don B's Princess' Cal Cup win earned her the vote as California's outstanding 2-year-old filly of 1991. She would win just one other race in her career, the 1992 Pacifica Handicap at Golden Gate Fields, although she continued to race through her 4-year-old season.

"We had to stop on her," said Barbara Dutton. "Being a gray horse, she had melanomas so bad we couldn't even put a saddle on her."

So, after three wins from 18 starts and additional placings in the Bay Meadows Lassie and filly division of the California Breeders' Champion Stakes, Don B's Princess retired with earnings of \$222,082. Charm a Gendarme was California's champion 3-year-old filly of 1992 and Wicked Wit received the CTBA's prestigious Valkyr Trophy.

Brave Indeed We never produced another stakes winner

in the class of True Windy's Baby, Simple Surprise or Don B's Princess. The Stoliches bred her to Mt. Livermore in 1993 and sold her to Kentucky interests. Her last reported foal, an Opening Verse filly named Christy Grace, sold at the 1998 Keeneland September Yearling Sale for \$6,000 and won once from 13 starts.

Simple Surprise and Don B's Princess appear to be following in their mother's hoofprints. Mining Surprise, the former's first foal by Mining, is a

stakes-placed winner of six races and \$133,816. Don B's Princess, who is now a broodmare at Elvin Adams' farm near Tracy, Calif., has so far produced four foals, all colts. Lightning Slew, her 1996 Bertrando colt, Brave Slew, her 1997 T. U. Slew colt, and Upsanddowns, her 1998 colt, have all won at the races. She had a Souvenir Copy colt last year and is now in foal to Fabulous Champ.

The Duttons sold Upsanddowns at the 2000 Barretts March sale for \$35,000, the buyer being trainer Mel Stute on behalf of musicians David and Herb Alpert. The colt broke his maiden by four lengths in his second start at Santa Anita on Jan. 26 and recently captured a 1 1/16 mile turf allowance race at Del Mar. He is nominated to both the Cal Cup Classic and Mile, hoping to emulate his mom on the 10th anniversary of her Cal Cup win.



Aug. 5, 2001—Allowance—Upsanddowns 1st (right)